

SEPTEMBER 1996

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 8 NUMBER 9

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

WOMYN HOOPSTERS GO PRO

We've come a long way, Baby!! The American Basketball League has announced plans to begin play in October with eight teams and the National Basketball League plans to have its own female league in the summer of 1997. At the end of May, more than 500 players paid \$200 to try out for the 80 openings in the ABL, ten of which had been filled by members of the U.S. Olympic team.

The teams are going to be based in Columbus, OH; Hartford, CONN.; Springfield, MASS.; Richmond, VA; Portland, OR; San Jose, CA; Atlanta, GA; and Denver, CO. Perhaps the most excitement for us was reading that one of our favorite players, a former Notre Dame point guard, Coquese Washington, was one of 122 to survive the cut and has been talking with the Portland, OR. team.

Speaking of the U.S.A. Women's team, the Olympic trading cards have finally arrived in S. Bend. I read about them a year ago and have been asking at every card shop and finally one said "Yes, we have them." There are two cards for each player, but the trick is that you have to buy numerous packets to get a complete set =BUT= *I have a deal for you!!* I have several duplicates so I am willing to trade. There are also cards out by Upper Deck, but I haven't been able to locate them. I think it is imperative that all of us go into every trading card shop and ask for cards with female athletes. This will send them a message that there is an interest.

So, if you want to trade, or find a shop that carries female athletes cards, please give me a call.....

.....Kaye

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FRIEND

Watching you watching
them,
always them, never me.

Dependable loyal obedient me.
The perfect friend, the perfect pet,
asking for nothing, getting nothing.
Never first in your heart or mind.

The tears fall the heart bleeds the mind aches
you are blind, you are deaf.
You do not see me standing on my head.
"Here I am!"

You watch them
as
I watch
you.

submitted by Joy

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Oct. newsletter is Sept. 13th. Submissions received after Sept. 13th may not be published in the Oct. newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338



COURT OF FRIENDS SINGLES

Nothing in the Box today. We had only one letter of response and no new ads for this month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:
LSG

P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

THIRD FRIDAY OUT



The Great Wall

130 Dixie Way South
South Bend

Fri., Sept. 20th, 6:30 p.m.

Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Tuesday, Sept. 17th
for reservations at 684-6913.

All suggestions of future places would be
appreciated.

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze	(219)-272-3477
Kaye & Marcia	(219)-271-0338
Joy	(219)-259-0906
Advertising:	Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions:	Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.



Sister Space Festival

Fri., Sept 6th - Sun., Sept 8th, in Canadensis, PA (Pocono Mountains). Call (215)- 476-8856 or fax: (215)-747-7565, e-mail: SODV@aol.com. See Karen Williams, Suede, Kim Kalman and Voice of Africa Choral Ensemble.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Olivia Cruises

October, 1996	Sonora Bay: Club Med Resort
February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Caribbean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

The Gay and Lesbian Youth festival and March on Washington, October 11-13th. For info call: 1-800-347-TEEN.

Liberty and Justice For All

A Place Where Lesbian, Gay and Straights can Talk, Worship and Learn--and Be Safe
Saturday, Sept. 28, 1996, 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.
Holiday Inn, 5920 Scatterfield Road, Anderson, IN. For info, call: 317-644-3570 or 317-849-1005.

Pride Days in Indy (Sept. 29-Oct. 5)

Friday, Oct. 4: Concert
Saturday, Oct. 5: Pride Fair '96
Pride Dance
For info, call: 317-767-5573

St. Joe Valley N O W Lesbian Committee

Each month The Lesbian Committee surveys 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/ gay friendly. We then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to local lesbian/ gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/ gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/ gay organizations.

"Is there a...therapist in the house?, pt. II" This month we polled therapists and psychologists. We asked these usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply:

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

Yes to all three:

Elkhart Youth Services

Bureau, Elkhart, 219-294-3549 Family and Children's Center and its affiliates: CANCO,

The Children's Campus, Inc., Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph Co.

Cathy Lambert, Koala

Counseling, S. Bend, 232-4191

Maple City Health Care

Center, NW Goshen only, 219-534-3300

Dr. Diane Johnson Prosser, Mishawaka, 277-0973

Sex Offense

Services, Madison Center, S. Bend, 289-HELP

Dr. Katie Steele, S. Bend, 289-7000

Anne Whitcomb, Elkhart, 674-0168



No Reply:

Rachel Anderson
Barbara Garrison, Linden Vale
Louise Morin-Davy, Linden Vale
Susan Patterson-Wright
Wendy Settle

Please note: Bonnie Doon Ice Cream and Hamburger restaurants were listed as supportive in our Director but they do not wish to be listed! Evidently, they do not welcome lesbians and gay men to their business. Please keep that in mind when considering purchasing from them.

"Read any good books lately?" This month we polled local bookstores. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

Yes to all three:



Erasmus Books, S. Bend
Griffon Bookstore, S. Bend
Little Professor Book Center, S. Bend
Pandora's Books, S. Bend
Pandora's Books for Open Minds, Kalamazoo. Check out this lesbian-owned bookstore.

Waldenbooks at UP Mall (closed 6/22/96)

No Reply!

Barnes & Noble!!, Mishawaka
Majerek's HallmarkTown and Country Reader's world,
Scottsdale mall Waldenbooks, Scottsdale mall

Also received: Dr. Carolyn Balog (219-546-3820), an optometrist in Bremen, wishes to be listed in our l/ g friendly directory.

The following bookstores will be listed in our next directory of l/ g friendly businesses:

Little Professor Book Center, Pandora's Books, Pandora's Books for Open Minds.

"Know any good, supportive Realtors?" This month we polled local Realtors to find out about their sensitivity toward and support of lesbians and gay men. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

Yes to all three:



No Reply:

Century 21, Rachel Thompson, 272-5444
Hughes Investments, Penny Hughes, 291-2342
Premier Properties, Tina Weldy, 534-8494
Century 21 in South Bend & Niles
Modern Realty, Niles
New Day, Niles
National Real Estate Service, Mishawaka

14 August 1996

Webster defined betrayal as;

1. To fail or desert in time of need;
2. To disclose in violation of confidence;
3. To lead astray.

Betrayal activates many falsehoods that cannot be seen with the naked eye.

Betrayal is worn like a cloak that covers not only the body but the heart and soul of woman kind.

Betrayal drowns the senses with coldness and deception.

Betrayal repeatedly pierces the open and unhealed wounds.

Betrayal walks on the once trusting heart leaving footprints of lies, disbelief, and illusions of words that breed into misplaced truths.

Betrayal lures the innocent into a web of injurious flight that continually whiplashes the inner and most tender of feelings.

Betrayal can completely transform something positive into a destructive negative.

Betrayal - a horrific example that dates back to the beginning of time, only costing 30 pieces of silver, leading to the crucifying of Christ.

Betrayal is like water to a drowning victim, a cage to a bird, a razor to a vein.

BETRAYAL-YOU HAVE MANY BEGINNINGS
THAT CONTAIN ENDINGS; DISAPPOINTMENTS
THAT BRING FORTH NEW INSIGHTS;
AND MANY REALIZATIONS OF
UNSPOKEN HOPES.

submitted by; SHARON S. STANLEY

Dolores Curran

Alt Publishing Co.

"Angry White Males Discover Unfairness"

Isn't it interesting how men are beginning to discover fairness in our world? As the job market tightens, they suddenly want fairness.

The new red flag in gender equality is "angry white males." It is invoked to explain lawsuits against affirmative action, to explain increases in violence against women, and to rationalize the emergence of violence like that in Oklahoma City.

The complaint is that white males are not getting a fair shake in today's economic/power climate and that's not fair.

I (Dolores Curran) met an angry white male who explained that he had been rejected by several graduate schools because of affirmative action, saying bitterly that the few available slots had gone to minorities and women. He said, "It's inherently unfair."

Then he added, "I don't think women understand that." I stared at him. Was he serious? He was. This was a bright if unbalanced young man who repressed centuries of approved unfairness to women and minorities by white males because of a deep-seated inherent attitude of entitlement. The entitlement attitude reflects a covert belief that God reserves power to the white male because he's best equipped to wield it.

When that power is threatened, males get angry. Who are they if they aren't superior to women? Predictably, male anger is granted a positive aura while female anger is labeled a character flaw.

"Women should expect a backlash," we're told. Rush Limbaugh exploit it by harping on feminazis who are out to demasculinize men when they request shared respect and power. White supremacists exploit it by blaming minorities for the state of the nation today. Religious leaders exploit it by mouthing justice while denying it.

Don't tell me and my sisters, daughters, and mother about fairness. I came up through the ranks where fine female teachers weren't considered as principals simply because of anatomy but found themselves expected to keep unqualified male principals afloat. I experienced editors who asked me to use initials on my non-family articles "so men would read them." I knew women whose applications to law school, medical school, and political candidacies were returned stamped with, "Women not accepted." Don't tell me women don't understand the inherent unfairness of unfairness.

White males are starting to experience the pain of inequality and are calling for fairness in the workplace, education and family. Great! I, for one, am willing to grant it to them as long as they agree to invoke it across the board, not just in getting contracts and into grad school, but in staying home with sick children, in demanding equal pay for women, and in sharing power in every area of life....50%, guys. I wonder if you really want to pursue this fairness thing.

How About A Golf Outing? (Maybe Sept. 21st)

Please call Sherrill at 684-6913
if interested &/or for add'l details



Dear Egeria,

My lover and I have been together for 1 and 1/2 years. She is my "Knight in Shining Armor" because she helped me escape from my violent husband. I really love her, but I'm getting afraid of her bad moods which are getting more frequent.

She hates her job, but says she won't quit because it pays well, and my disability check doesn't help much. I clean the house, do the yard, laundry, cooking and house remodeling while she's at work, but it's never good enough for her, especially lately.

After work, sometimes, she is really in a bad mood and takes it out on me. If I don't argue with her then she gets mean and has hit me a few times. Once I fell after she hit me and I needed stitches. Another time she threw my cat against the wall and said she was going to kill both of us. She also drinks too much!

I went to a therapist to see what I could do, but the therapist was a nut case. I can't afford to leave. I have friends who would let me stay with them but one friend is allergic to cats, and I can't part with my cat, who I've had for years. Besides, I really want the relationship to work. Sometimes, my lover is totally sweet. It's just her dam job and drinking. Is there some way I can convince her to quit? I don't want a separation, I cry when I even think about that.

She doesn't read Open Arms, so I thought I'd write to you. Help!!

Dear Teardrops,

Your lover's job has nothing to do with her rage. She has an inner anger that she is unable to control. That anger began many years ago. I am greatly concerned about your safety and the safety of your beloved pet. Hitting you and throwing the cat against the wall is violent abuse and both acts are illegal.

You say you love this lady, but do you love her anger and cruelty? These characteristics are

a part of her and You Can Not Fix Her. Suits of armor are not available for you and your cat, at least in this area.

Your lover is dangerous and emotionally ill. She needs therapy, desperately, and dear heart, so do you. Nothing you do, will improve her illness. You simply have provided her with a full-time maid and punching bag! If you can do all of the home tasks, you've apparently provided, you can acquire a part time job to supplement your income. But, you have been in two abusive relationships, and it is vital for you to discover why your taste in people leads you to become a victim of abuse. Find the right therapist for you and work with that person openly and honestly. You get out of therapy what you put into it, and there are many good therapists in the area.

By staying with your lover you are nurturing her illness. You must care enough about yourself and your cat, and say "no" to abuse before it's too late! Read the book, Women Who Love Too Much by Robin Norwood and attend some Al Anon Meetings.

You have a difficult road ahead of you, but in the end, it will be the best trip of your life.

Love, Egeria

.....Egeria (woman advisor) will address your concerns. You will remain anonymous.

Egeria

P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120



WHISTLE STOP CAFE ...

comes to the end of its fourth year with 11 wins and 3 losses. The last game was a winner with 11 to 1. Patti had a single and a triple, Connie 2 triples, and Sharon S. a home run and a single. What a stand up and cheer night!

Woody, Sharon, and Kim did some excellent pitching this season.

Thank you fans for coming out in support. And, thank you Sherrill and Lori for the great bash after our last game.....see you all next year, and, remember to keep cooking those Fried Green Tomatoes!

IN THE NEWS:

A recent poll in the August 14th issue of USA Today indicates that 85% of adults feel that gays and lesbians should be treated fairly in the workplace. This is an increase of 9% since a similar poll in 1992. I wish they would poll that same 85% and see how they felt about gays and lesbians being treated fairly in all aspects of life. It appears that our legal system does not feel we should be treated fairly as evidenced by the following story in the August 16th issue of USA Today. Sharon Bottoms has been fighting to regain custody of her son, Tyler, from her mother, Kay Bottoms, since 1993. Unfortunately, after appearing before the same two judges in each of her attempts, Sharon has abandoned her attempt to regain Tyler because she felt that the judicial system was prejudiced against her and would never give Tyler back to her. Her mother is happy over this turn around and states that she, Kay, fought for custody "because she was offended by her daughter's lesbianism". Personally, I feel that the judicial system should keep it's nose out of our bedrooms. If the legal system is going to decide custody battles on the basis of what goes on in the bedroom, then they should look at everyone's bedroom and not just those of lesbians and gays. Better yet, don't even bring sex into it. Award custody to the person who is the best equipped emotionally and financially to offer that child a good and stable life. Interesting concept isn't it!

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*Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to
the Michiana lesbian community.*

MARTHA PERKINS
*CERTIFIED MASSAGE
THERAPIST*

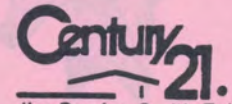
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Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year,
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the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If
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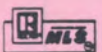


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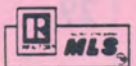
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106 Lincolnway East Mishawaka, Indiana 46544



September

1996

Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

1	2 LABOR DAY	3 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	4 N.D. Volleyball vs. Stanford 7:00 p.m. N.O.W. MEETING 7:00 p.m. St. Joe County Library	5	6 Happy Birthday KIM K. N.D. V-Ball 7:00 p.m.	7 N.D. Volleyball vs. Kentucky 1:00 p.m. Indiana 7:00 p.m.
8 Open Arms 6:30 p.m.	9	10 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	11	12 <i>To My Love: Happy 1st Year Love, Sweet Petite</i> 	13 Best Wishes to LISA O. N.D. V-Ball 8:30 p.m.	14 N.D. Volleyball Clemson/Wash. State TBA
15	16	17 Support Group 7:00 p.m. Reservations due for Fri. nite out	18	19	20 FRIDAY NITE OUT 6:30 p.m.	21 N.D. Volleyball vs. Purdue 7:00 p.m.
22 Autumn Begins	23 Yom Kippur	24 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27 N.D. Volley- ball Alumnae Game 7:00 p.m.	28
29	30					